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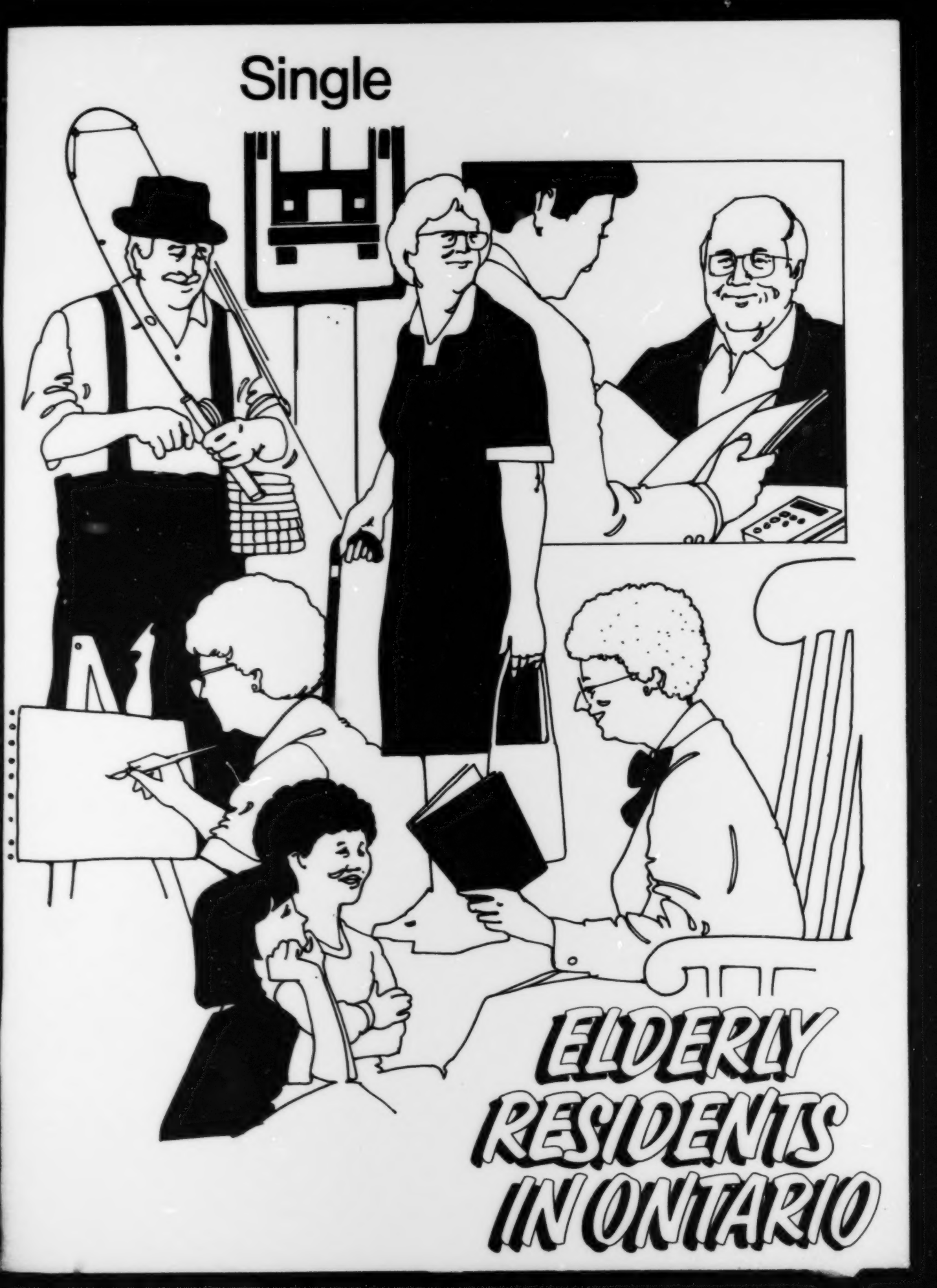

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO

86-02345/

ELDERLY RESIDENTS IN ONTARIO:

DIFFERENCES BY MARITAL STATUS WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS

ON THOSE WHO ARE SINGLE

Minister for Senior Citizens Affairs
Seniors Secretariat
September, 1985

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is part of a series on the USCO project. The study has involved a variety of individuals, groups and government departments at many levels. The eclectic nature of the study necessitated a variety of resources and it is apparent that the study has benefitted from such support.

A special thank you to the United Senior Citizens of Ontario, specifically to their Research Task Force. They conceived the initial idea and provided assistance in the field co-ordination. Reg Screen and Joyce King (USCO past President and President respectively) must be singled out for their dedication and consistent and continuous support.

Thanks are due to New Horizons of Health and Welfare, Canada. They provided the USCO with the grant to fund the project. The Income Security Branch of Health and Welfare Canada, must also be remembered for the provision of the Old Age Security data base from which the sample was drawn.

One hundred and twelve volunteers were recruited to do the interviews. Many thanks to these individuals who contributed so generously of their time.

The project began under the direction of Anna Rose Spina in the former Program Development Branch of the Ontario Ministry of Health. Stephen Newroth served as the project co-ordinator to the completion of the fieldwork. Merle Anne Ridley was my co-worker during the fieldwork and the initial stages of analysis. She also assisted me with writing the papers on the methodology, income group differences and rural-urban differences.

Anne Madigan, formerly with the Ministry of Community and Social Services, co-ordinated the fieldwork in the rural areas.

I am very grateful to the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development for funding the analysis and report writing stages. Their support has been extremely significant. Particular thanks to the Inter-Ministry Steering Committee with whom I am working: John Nywening, (Chairperson) and David Kennedy, Seniors Secretariat; George Hough, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; Dorothy Singer, Ministry of Community and Social Services; Joan McCalla and John Thorpe, Ministry of Transportation and Communications; and Esta Wall, Ministry of Health.

My many thanks to Millie Oake for her careful typing of this manuscript.

Finally, this study could never have been accomplished without the co-operation of the 846 persons whom we interviewed. I only hope that this study sensitively and accurately represents their experience.

Arlene Hoffman, Ph.D.
Research Consultant

SUMMARY

This paper focuses on the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup of the population interviewed for the USCO survey: the single (never married) respondents. The characteristics being considered include demographics, recreation, health status, use of the health care system, receipt of assistance, housing preferences and transportation. To place the experiences of the single respondents into appropriate context, their experiences are compared to the experiences of two other groups: the respondents who are currently married and the respondents who are divorced, separated or widowed (hereafter previously married).

The single respondents were distinguished by their geographic and demographic characteristics. The largest concentration of the single respondents was found in the most populous urban centre: Toronto and the smallest concentration was found in Penetanguishene. Single respondents were most frequently between the ages of 62 and 74, women, renters as opposed to owners, as likely to live in apartments as houses and likely to live alone.

The social contacts maintained by the single respondents were distinguished from those of the other respondents. Single persons had the fewest family members and maintained the least frequent family contact. In relation to friends, single persons were unique in the fact that they maintained the most frequent phone contact.

The single respondents participated in the fewest recreational activities. Ninety-two percent indicated barriers which they reported kept them from participating to the extent they had desired. Health was cited most frequently. The absence of transportation and the absence of companions also accounted for a significant proportion (a range of from seven to ten percent) of the barriers.

The single respondents did not differ from the other groups in their self-perception of health. Sixty-seven percent of the single respondents considered their health to be good or excellent; eight percent defined their health as poor. When comparing their health with five years previous, ten percent of the single respondents said their health had improved, 67% stated their health remained the same and 23% reported a deterioration in their health. The single respondents reported the fewest health conditions and the fewest interfering health conditions.

Marital status was not a distinguishing factor in the use of the health care system. Among the single respondents, 93% had been seen by family doctors, 35% had been seen by specialists and seventeen percent had been hospitalized.

The ability of the respondents to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items of the OARS instrumental and physical activities of daily living (ADLS) scales. Nine ADLS were presented to the respondents and they were asked to indicate if they could personally accomplish each

activity without help, with some help or if they were unable to do the activity at all. The nine ADLS included using the telephone, shopping preparing meals, doing heavy housework, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. In situations where the respondents indicated that they required assistance with the ADLS or that they were personally unable to do the activity, they were defined as having a disability. When examining the number of disabilities reported by marital status it was found that disabilities were least frequently reported by the married respondents (26%) and most frequently reported by the previously married group (39%). The single respondents (27%) who reported disabilities, reported most difficulty with housework and shopping.

All respondents were read a list of 22 day to day activities and were asked if they received assistance with the activities. The single respondents (38%) were the least likely to receive assistance. The single respondents received most help with yardwork, heavy housework, shopping and house repairs.

With respect to the assistance received, the married respondents received the largest proportion (37%) of assistance from spouses and the previously married respondents received most (36%) help from children. The single respondents, on the other hand, were most reliant (42%) on paid help. Both neighbours/friends and paid help were relied on to a significantly larger extent by the single respondents than by those who were currently or previously married.

When asked if any additional assistance was needed with the 22 day to day activities, the single respondents (18%) voiced the fewest requests. The requests made by the single respondents were primarily for help with heavy housework, going out in bad weather, and yardwork.

All respondents were presented with five housing options and were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing they would want should they be unable to care for their own needs. The housing options included: moving in with family, moving in with friends, staying at home with community services to assist, staying at home with family/friends to assist or moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (supportive housing arrangement). Across all groups the majority of respondents indicated an interest in staying home with the assistance of community services or moving into a supportive housing arrangement. The single respondents were the most likely to report an interest in moving in with friends.

The single respondents differed from the other groups in that they (14%) were the most likely to report transportation problems.

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1. INTRODUCTION

This paper is part of a series on the findings of the United Senior Citizens of Ontario survey.[1] The principal objective of the survey was to systematically examine the living situation of elderly persons who reside in the community and outside of institutional settings. In this survey a scientific random sample of 846 persons was interviewed from eight areas across the Province. These areas include five urban centres: Brockville, Penetanguishene, Sault Ste. Marie, Toronto and Windsor, and three rural communities: Athens, Bruce Mines and Cookstown.

The purpose of this paper is to describe the distinguishing characteristics of one subgroup within the population surveyed: the persons who are single (never married). Little information is available on the living situation of older single persons. The means by which they manage on a day to day basis is virtually unknown. In light of the fact that single persons do not have spouses and are unlikely to have children, older single persons lack the principal sources of support relied upon by the majority of elderly adults. In view of this uniqueness, the single persons' living situation warrants serious consideration.

In this paper a profile of older single persons is drawn. Attention is given to their demographic characteristics, social contacts, recreation, health status, use of the health care system, receipt of assistance, providers of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and transportation. To place the experiences of the single respondents into appropriate context, their experiences are being compared to the experiences of two other groups: the respondents who are currently married and the respondents who are divorced/separated or widowed (hereinafter previously married).

In this paper the living situations of these three groups are compared. The living situation of the sample as a whole has been described in other papers within this series. The reader should refer to these papers as basic references for any further comparison of the data.

2. DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

The demographic characteristics of the single respondents, the currently married respondents and the previously married respondents are described in this section. Consideration is given to their community of residence, age, sex, income and housing.

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[1] Refer to Appendix for a list of other papers in the USCO series.

Within the total sample seven percent (n=60) of the respondents were single, 56% (n=475) were currently married and 37% (n=308) were previously married. Table 1 illustrates that the proportion of single respondents varied across areas from a low of two percent (n=22) in Penetanguishine to a high of ten percent (n=27) in Toronto. Married respondents were most highly concentrated in Penetanguishine (69%, n=69), and least frequently found in Toronto (49%, n=130).

The single respondents were closer to age to the married respondents than they were to those who were previously married. Table 2 illustrates that the majority of both the single respondents (63%, n=38) and the married respondents (70%, n=333) were between the ages of 62 and 74. Just over one-quarter of both groups (28%, n=17 and 26%, n=125 respectively) were aged 75 to 84. The previously married group was composed of the oldest respondents; 43% (n=131) were 62 to 74, 43% (n=133) fell between the ages of 75 to 84 and fourteen percent (n=43) were aged 85+.

Women were more likely than men to be single. Table 3 shows that among the single respondents, there were twice as many women (68%, n=41) as men (32%, n=19). As well, women (81%, n=247) outnumbered men (19%, n=58) four to one in the previously married group. Men were more likely than women to be found in the married group. They (58%, n=195) outnumbered women by sixteen percentage points.

Of the three groups, the married respondents had the highest monthly incomes and the previously married respondents had the lowest incomes. Table 4 illustrates that whereas, over one-half (54%, n=241) of the highest income group (monthly incomes in excess of $999) was composed of the married respondents, more than one-half (56%, n=155) of the lowest income group (monthly incomes under $600) was made up of the respondents who had been previously married. [1].

It is noteworthy that the single respondents had the most evenly distributed incomes of the groups. Close to one-quarter (31%, n=17) of the single group had monthly incomes exceeding $999; 39% (n=22) had monthly incomes under $600.

Marital status differences were found in relation to housing arrangements. Table 5 shows that the single (61%, n=36) and previously married respondents (52%, n=16) were more likely to rent than to own their housing. By contrast, the married respondents were five times as likely to be owners (84%, n=398) as renters (16%, n=77).

---

1 On July 1, 1982, when this survey was conducted, the federal and provincial governments guaranteed the following total payments through the Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplement and GAINS-A programs: $529.29 for single seniors and $1,003.28 for married seniors.

Married respondents had a six times greater likelihood of residing in houses (87%, n=407) than apartments. Single respondents resided in houses (50%, n=27) as often as they resided in apartments (50%, n=27). Previously married respondents had a slightly greater likelihood (55%, n=169) of being house dwellers. Refer to Table 6.

The majority of both the single respondents (60%, n=36) and the previously married respondents (69%, n=213) resided alone. Table 7 illustrates that married respondents lived alone in one percent (n=4) of the cases.

3. SOCIAL CONTACTS

Social contacts were assessed in this study on the basis of visits and telephone conversations with family and friends. In this section these contacts are examined.

Almost all (99%, n=835) of the respondents had contact with at least one family member. Table 8 illustrates that the single respondents had contact with the fewest family members. Seven percent (n=4) had no family contacts. The married respondents had the largest number of contacts; 77%, (n=367) had contact with seven or more persons.

Table 9 shows the number of respondents who had contact with children. Contact with at least one child was maintained by five percent (n=3) of the single respondents, 85% (n=263) of the previously married respondents and ninety percent (n=427) of the married respondents.

Marital status was a distinguishing factor in the frequency of contacts with family. The most frequent contacts whether it be by telephone or in person were maintained by the currently married and the previously married respondents. Single respondents had the least frequent contact. On a weekly basis phone contact with family was maintained by 81% of both the currently and previously married groups in contrast with 53% (n=29) of the single group. Over one-quarter (29%) of the single respondents had phone contact with family less than once per month. Refer to Table 10.

Irrespective of marital status, women had more frequent phone contact with family than men. At least once per week 63% (n=24) of single women and 85% (n=205) of the previously married women spoke with family by phone. The corresponding percentages for men were 29% (n=5) and 61% (n=34) respectively.

The most frequent visits to family were maintained by the married and previously married respondents. Single respondents visited least often. Table 11 illustrates that at least once per month family members were visited by 69% (n=327) of the married group; 66% (n=198) of the previously married group and 36% (n=20) of the single group.

Irrespective of marital status, women visited family more frequently than men. The most dramatic differences between groups occurred between those who had been previously married and those who were single. Forty-one percent (n=16) of the single women and 68% (n=164) of the previously married women visited their family at least once per month. The men who visited with such frequency numbered 24% (n=4) and 58% (n=33) of the respective groups.

The currently and previously married respondents received the most frequent visits from family. Single respondents were visited least frequently. Table 12 shows that at least once per month 77% of the previously and currently married respondents and 46% (n=26) of the single respondents had been visited by family. Women were visited more frequently than men. In the previously married group, a twenty percentage point difference divided the number of women (81%, n=195) from the number of men (61%, n=34) who had been visited by family a minimum of once per month.

Contacts with friends did not vary among groups as significantly as contacts with family. The only statistically significant difference was found in relation to phone contacts. Table 13 illustrates that the most frequent contact with friends was maintained by those who were single and those who were previously married. A minimum of 72% of both groups had phone contact with friends at least once per week. The corresponding figure for the married respondents was 63% (n=296). Women's contact with friends was more frequent than that of men's regardless of marital status. A minimum of 76% of the women compared to a minimum of 54% of the men had phone contact with friends at least once per week.

4. RECREATION

In this survey recreational participation was examined. This section concentrates on the relationship of marital status and participation.

To measure participation, the respondents were read a list of 21 recreational activities and were asked about the extent of their participation in each activity. The activities included solitary activities such as handicrafts, group activities like club participation, activities requiring minimal output of energy like reading and activities requiring greater output like sports. The respondents' participation ranged from one to twenty activities with a mean of twelve. Twenty-eight percent (n=233) of the sample participated in a maximum of ten activities, 21% (n=178) were involved in eleven to twelve activities, 23% (n=199) participated in thirteen to fourteen activities and 28% (n=236) participated in fifteen or more activities.

Table 14 illustrates that the married respondents participated in the largest number of leisure activities; and the single respondents participated in the fewest activities. Involvement in thirteen or more activities was common to 56% (n=266) of the married respondents compared to 44% (n=26) of the single respondents.

Across groups women participated in more leisure activities than men. The differences found within the married and the previously married groups were minimal. The largest difference pertained to those who were single. Among the single respondents 56% (n=23) of the women compared to 16% (n=3) of the men were involved in thirteen or more activities.

No differences in participation were found across groups in relation to eleven of the 21 activities examined. The eleven activities included: participating in clubs, attending the theatre, reading, visiting friends, receiving visits from friends, playing cards, doing volunteer work, helping out at election time, taking walks, attending church and doing hobbies. The activities for which differences in participation were found included: gardening, going to sports events, phoning friends, phoning family, visiting family, receiving visits from family, participating in sports, travelling, going for drives and entertaining. In relation to six of these ten activities, the least frequent participants were the single respondents and the most frequent participants were the married respondents. In all but one of the ten activities the respondents in the married group were the most likely to participate. Refer to Table 15.

Ninety-four precent (n=790) of the total sample reported barriers which they claimed kept them from participating in leisure activities to the extent they desired. At least one barrier was cited by 92% (n=55) of the single respondents, 95% (n=453) of the married respondents and 94% (n=288) of the previously married respondents. Table 16 illustrates that across groups, the barrier cited most frequently was health. The absence of companions and the absence of transportation accounted for a significant proportion (a range of seven to ten percent) of the barriers cited by the single and previously married respondents. Expense, family health problems, being too busy and laziness accounted for a larger proportion of the barriers cited by those who were married than those who were single or previously married.

The characteristics of the respondents who reported selected barriers were analyzed. (Refer to the report entitled: Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and the Barriers to Their Participation for a complete description of these characteristics). Tables 17 through 21 illustrate that marital status discriminated among groups in the citation of five barriers: health, being too busy, expense, transportation, and family health problems. The married

respondents were the most likely to report that their recreational participation was hampered because of "being too busy", expense, and family health problems. The single respondents (28%, n=17) on the other hand, were more likely than those who were married (13%, n=60) or those who were previously married (21%, n=64) to cite the absence of transportation as a barrier.

Although health was the most frequently cited barrier by the respondents in all groups, it was cited most often by the respondents who had been previously married (54%, n=165) and least often by those who were married (44%, n=210).

5. HEALTH STATUS

Health status is a composite measure. In this paper it is defined exclusively in terms of perceived health status. Seven variables are used to comprise the measure. They include:

a) subjective rating of health
b) comparison of health with five years previous
c) extent to which health conditions stand in the way of doing things persons want to do
d) number and type of health conditions
e) number and type of interfering health conditions
f) mobility
g) use of assistive devices.

The data presented on health status is based on self-reports.

Marital status was not a discriminating factor in the self-rating of health. Sixty-seven percent (n=40) of the single group, 63% (n=227) of the married group and 58% (n=177) of the previously married group considered their health to be good or excellent. Eight percent of both the single (n=5) and married group and eleven percent (n=33) of the previously married group considered their health to be poor.

When asked to compare their health with five years previous, the three groups differed in their responses. Table 22 illustrates that the majority (a minimum of 52%) of the respondents across groups reported that their health had remained the same over the five year period. Twenty-three to forty percent of the respondents indicated that their health had deteriorated and eight to ten percent said their health had improved. The married respondents (11%, n=51) had the greatest tendency to report an improvement in their health over this period. The previously married (40%, n=123) group were most likely to report a deterioration in health. Among the single respondents, ten percent (n=6) said their health had improved, 67% (n=40) stated their health remained the same and 23% (n=14) reported a deterioration in health.

Although the majority of respondents perceived their health to be good or excellent, a significant proportion of respondents in each group reported that their health interfered with their performance of day to day activities. Table 23 reveals that interference was least often reported by the single respondents (38%, n=23) and most often reported by those who had been previously married (63%, n=194). Reports of interference did not vary statistically by sex.

All respondents were read a list of 31 health conditions and were asked to indicate if a physician had ever told them that they had the condition. The conditions included arthritis, heart trouble, cancer, dizziness, diabetes, etc. (Refer to report entitled Elderly Residents in Ontario. Their Health Status and Their Use of the Health Care System for a listing of the conditions). The number of conditions reported varied by marital status such that the previously married respondents reported the largest number of conditions and the single respondents reported the fewest conditions. Table 24 shows that five or more conditions were reported by 25% (n=15) of the single respondents, 30% (n=145) of the married respondents and 39% (n=122) of the previously married respondents.

Regardless of marital status, women reported a greater number of health conditions than men. Thirty-nine percent (n=186) of the women compared to 26% (n=91) of the men reported five or more conditions. The largest number of health conditions were reported by the previously married women. Forty-three percent (n=107) of the previously married women compared to 27% (n=11) of the single women reported at least five conditions. Among the men, the largest number of health conditions were reported by those who were married. Five or more health conditions were reported by 28% (n=75) of the married men, 21% (n=4) of the single men and 20% (n=12) of the men who had been previously married.

Interfering health conditions were most frequently reported by the previously married group and least frequently reported by those who were single. Table 25 shows that at least one interfering condition was reported by 53% (n=32) of the single respondents, 70% (n=333) of the married respondents and fully 74% (229) of the previously married respondents.

Just as women were more likely than men to report health conditions, they were also more likely to report conditions which interferred with day to day activities. Seventy-three percent (n=353) of the women compared to 67% (n= 236) of the men indicated an interfering condition. The previously married women (75%, n=186) reported interfering conditions most often and the single women (56%, n=23) reported interfering conditions least often. The men followed a similar pattern. Interfering conditions were reported most frequently by the previously married men (69%, n=40) and least frequently by single men (47%, n=9).

The respondents' self-reported ability to walk around the average block was used as a measurement of mobility. Using this measure, mobility differed by marital status. The respondents who reported being able to walk around the block numbered 93% (n=442) of the married group, 92% (n=55) of the single group and 87% (n=267) of the group who had been previously married.

6. USE OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Use of the health care system was measured by visits to family doctors, specialists and hospitalizations over a twelve month period. The findings revealed that use did not vary statistically by marital status.

During the year prior to being interviewed, the respondents who had been seen by their family doctor included 93% (n=55) of the single group, 92% (n=434) of the married group and 94% (n=282) of the previously married group. Visits to specialists were made by 35% (n=21) of the single group, 39% (n=21) of the married group and 42% (n=126) of the group who had been previously married.

Nineteen percent (n=160) of the total sample had been hospitalized during the year prior to the interview. This figure included seventeen percent (n=10) of the single respondents, 19% (n=83) of the married respondents and 22% (n=67) of the previously married respondents. The majority (68%, n=108) of those hospitalized had been admitted to the hospital one time. The groups did not differ in the number of hospital admissions.

7. TYPE OF DISABILITIES AND RECEIPT OF ASSISTANCE

The ability of the respondents to manage on a day to day basis was measured with the use of selected items from the OARS instrumental and physical activities of daily living (ADLS) scales.[1] These scales are commonly employed to assess the older persons' capability of performing ADLS. The respondents were presented with nine ADLS and were asked to indicate if they could personally accomplish each activity without help, with some help or if they were unable to do the activity at all. The ADLS included using the telephone, shopping, preparing meals, doing heavy housework, handling money, dressing, taking care of one's own appearance, getting in and out of bed and bathing. In situations where the respondents indicated that they required assistance with the ADL or that they were personally unable to do the activity they were defined as having a disability.

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[1] Refer to Reference section for the reference to these scales.

Table 26 shows that the majority (a minimum of 61%) of the respondents in all groups had no disabilities. Disabilities were least frequently reported by the married respondents (26%) and most frequently reported by those who were previously married (39%, n=120). It must be kept in mind that the previously married respondents were also older than the married respondents.

Across groups women were more likely than men to indicate disabilities. Three or more disabilities were reported by ten percent (n=4) of the single women, ten percent (n=20) of the married women and fourteen percent (n=35) of the previously married women. The corresponding percentages for men were five percent (n=1) six percent (n=17) and nine percent (n=5) respectively.

The capability of the respondents to personally perform each of the nine ADLS was examined. The two most prevalent disabilities reported by all groups were housework and shopping. Marital status differences were found in relation to disabilities with shopping. Table 27 shows that with respect to shopping, the previously married respondents were the most likely to be disabled and the married respondents were disabled least often.

Just as the previously married respondents were more likely than the single or married respondents to report disabilities, they were also more likely to be in receipt of assistance with day to day activities. Help with at least one activity was received by: 38% (n=23) of the single group, 42% (n=200) of the married group and 61% (n=188) of the previously married group. Table 28 shows that the respondents in the previously married group were not only more likely to be in receipt of assistance, but also received assistance with the largest number of activities. They (16%, n=49) were twice as likely as the respondents in married group (8%, n=39) and the single group (5%, n=5) to receive assistance with five or more activities.

Across groups, women were more likely than men to receive assistance. Forty-four percent (n=18) of the single women, 49% (n=95) of the married women and 65% (n=160) of the previously married women were in receipt of assistance. The corresponding number of men was 26% (n=5, 38% (n=105) and 45% (n=26) respectively.

Table 29 shows that the type of activities with which assistance was received did not vary among groups in the case of sixteen of the 22 activities considered. Statistically significant differences were found in relation to eight activities, namely, light housework, heavy housework, laundry, house repairs, yardwork, and shopping. The previously married respondents had the greatest likelihood of receiving assistance with these activities. The married respondents were least likely to receive this assistance.

8. PROVIDERS OF ASSISTANCE

Information was gathered on the sources of assistance used by the respondents with the 22 day to day activities. Table 30 illustrates that the sources used differed by group. The most frequently used sources of assistance among the groups were paid help (41% for the single respondents), spouses (37% for the married respondents) and children (36% for the previously married respondents). Children provided a larger proportion of assistance to the respondents who had been previously married (36%) than to those who were currently married (22%). Neighbours/friends and paid help were relied on to a significantly larger extent by those who were single (32%, 42%, respectively) and by those who were married (6%, 20%, respectively) and by those who had been previously married (11%, 22%, respectively). Community agencies were used to an equal and minimal extent across groups.

The sources of assistance used by women differed in many ways from the sources used by men. Single men were three times more likely than single women to receive assistance from neighbours/friends. Single women, on the other hand, were twice as likely as single men to use the assistance of paid help.

Married women differed from married men in the amount of assistance they received from daughters compared to the amount they received from sons. Married women were provided with a greater proportion of assistance from daughters (14%) than sons (9%). In contrast, married men received a larger proportion of assistance from sons (15%) than daughters (6%).

In addition to obtaining information on the sources of assistance with the 22 day to day activities, information was gathered on the use of five specific community agencies. The agencies included Visiting Nurses, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels, and Friendly Visiting. The number of respondents who used the agencies differed by group. Table 32 illustrates that the agencies were used most frequently by those who were previously married (16%, n=49) and least frequently by those who were married (6%, n=28). Use of these agencies did not vary by sex.

When the use of each agency was examined on its own, the only significant difference across groups was found in relation to the use of Visiting Nurses. The most likely users were the previously married respondents (13%, n=41); and the least likely users (4%, n=19) were married.

9. REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The respondents were asked if they could use any or any additional (hereafter additional) assistance with the 22 day to day activities. The number of respondents who voiced requests did not differ statistically across groups. Requests were made by eighteen percent (n=11) of the single respondents, 22% (n=106) of the married respondents and 29% (n=88) of the previously married respondents. No significant differences among groups were found when sex was controlled for. The three groups did not differ with respect to their requests for additional assistance. Refer to Table 33.

Comparing the requests of the three groups reveals that the most prevalent requests from the single respondents were for assistance with heavy housework (12%, n=7), going out in bad weather (7%, n=4) and yardwork (6%, n=3). The married respondents made most requests for assistance with heavy housework (10%, n=48) yardwork (10%, n=46) and house repairs (8%, n=38). The previously married group reported the largest number of requests in relation to heavy housework (13%, n=41), light housework (9%, n=29), yardwork (8%, n=21) and cutting toenails (8%, n=25).

10. INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING OPTIONS

The possibility exists for all older persons residing in their own homes that a time may come when they are unable to care for their own needs. If that time does come, the older persons may be faced with finding a suitable arrangement to meet their impending requirements. In this survey the respondents were asked to project into the future and consider the type of housing that might interest them should this situation arise. The question was posed as such..."If at a future point in your life you find it extremely difficult to care for your own needs, please tell me if you would or would not be interested in the following housing arrangements:

- moving in with family
- moving in with friends
- staying at home with community services to assist
- staying at home with family/friends to assist
- moving into a home for elderly persons or a housing project where some services are available (hereafter supportive housing arrangement).

Across groups the majority of respondents indicated an interest in staying home with the assistance of community services or moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Least interest was expressed in moving in with friends.

Table 34 reveals that marital status differences were found in relation to the interest expressed in two housing options, namely, moving in with friends and moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Interest in moving in with friends was expressed most often by those who were single (11%, n=6) and least often by those who were currently married (2%, n=7). Moving into a supportive housing arrangement attracted the most interest of the married respondents (77%, n=43) and the least interest of the currently married respondents (64%, n=186).

11. TRANSPORTATION

The modes of transportation used by the respondents and the problems associated in using those modes were assessed in this survey. Statistically significant differences were found across groups in both the transportation modes used and the problems experienced.

The transportation mode used by the respondents for shopping, medical appointments and social occasions can be found on Tables 35, 36, and 37. A comparison of the three tables indicates that the respondents tended to use the same mode of transportation for each of the activities. The single respondents generally walked or used public transportation when travelling to each activity. The largest proportion (a minimum of 55%) of the married respondents drove themselves to all activities. Those who had been previously married were likely to get to the activities by walking (a minimum of seventeen percent), driving themselves (a minimum of 23 percent) or being driven by relatives (a minimum of 23%).

When asked if transportation to shopping, medical appointments or social occasions was a problem, nine percent (n=78) of the total sample answered in the affirmative. The response differed across groups such that reports of transportation problems were most prevalent among the single respondents (41%, n=8) and least prevalent among those who were married (7%, n=34). Refer to Table 38.

No significant differences among the groups was found in relation to reports of transportation problems associated with shopping and medical appointments. The groups did vary in reports of problems with transportation to social occasions. Table 39 shows that transportation problems were reported most often by those who were single (8%, n=5) and least often by those who were married (3%, n=13). The numbers in these categories were very small and thus, these findings should be interpreted with extreme caution.

The respondents' general use of public transportation was measured and it was found to differ significantly among the three groups. Table 40 illustrates that the most likely users of public transporation were the single respondents (73%, n=44) and the least likely users were the respondents who were currently married (42%, n=197). No differences across groups were found in the requests for assistance with public transit.

The general use of taxis also differed across groups. Table 41 shows that taxi users numbered 53% (n=32) of the single respondents, 42% (n=129) of the previously married respondents and 23% (n=111) of the respondents who were currently married. Requests for additional assistance with taxis did not vary across groups.

Thirty-two percent (n=258) of the respondents stated that should additional income be available to them, they would spend it on transportation. Table 42 illustrates that the respondents who indicated an interest in allocating additional income on transportation included 35% (n=162) of the married respondents, thirty percent (n=17) of the single respondents and 27% (n=79) of those who had been previously married.

12. CONCLUSION

This paper has profiled the distinguishing characteristics of three groups of persons interviewed for the USCO Survey: the single respondents, the married respondents and the respondents who had been previously married (widowed, divorced or separated). Particular attention has been given to those who are single. The findings revealed that the three groups differed in their demographic characteristics, health status, disabilities, receipt of assistance, sources of assistance, requests for additional assistance, housing preferences and use of transporation.

The single respondents had very distinguishable characteristics:

- o They made up seven percent of the sample.
- o Geographically, they were more heavily concentrated in the city of Toronto than in the remaining seven communities.
- o The majority (63%) were between the ages of 62-74; nine percent were aged 85+.
- o Women were more likely than men to be single. There were twice as many single women as men.

- They had the most evenly distributed income of all groups; close to one-third had monthly incomes exceeding $999; 39% had monthly incomes under $600.
- They were the most likely of all respondents to reside in apartments and to rent their housing.
- The majority (60%) lived alone.
- They had the fewest family contacts; eight percent had no contacts with family members.
- They maintained the least frequent contact with family.
- The frequency with which they visited and were visited by friends did not differ from the married or previously married respondents. Single respondents had more frequent phone contact with friends than the married respondents; 72% had phone contact with friends at least once per week.
- They participated in the fewest recreational activities.
- They were the the least likley to garden, go to sports events, phone friends, phone family, visit family, receive visits from family, participate in sports, travel, go for drives and entertain.
- They were the most likely to cite the absence of transportation as a barrier to their recreational participation.
- The majority (67%) considered their health to be good or excellent.
- The majority (67%) indicated that their health remained the same over a five year period; 23% reported that their health deteriorated.
- They reported the fewest number of health conditions and the fewest number of interfering health conditions.
- They used the health care system with the same frequency as the respondents who were married or previously married.
- The majority (73%) had no disabilities; nine percent had three or more disabilities.
- They reported most difficulty with doing housework, shopping, and preparing meals.
- Thirty-eight percent received assistance with day to day activities.
- Their most frequent source of assistance was paid help.

- o They made the fewest requests for additional assistance; 18% made requests. Their most prevalent requests were for help with heavy housework, going out of doors in bad weather and yardwork.

- o Should they be unable to care for their own needs, they expressed most interest in moving into a supportive housing arrangement. Of the three groups, they expressed greatest interest in moving in with friends.

- o They were the most likely of all respondents, to report problems with transportation.

The value of this research lies in the importance of recognizing marital status when considering elderly persons and incorporating the unique characteristics of individuals who differ by marital status into decisions that may effect their day to day lives.

TABLE 1: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS BY THEIR MARITAL STATUS ACROSS AREAS

AREA	MARITAL STATUS							
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED		TOTAL	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Penetanguishene	(2)	2	(69)	69	(29)	29	(100)	100
Brockville	(3)	6	(28)	60	(16)	34	(47)[1]	100
Cookstown/Athens/ Bruce Mines	(8)	5	(106)	64	(53)	31	(167)[2]	100
Sault Ste Marie	(7)	6	(55)	50	(48)	44	(110)	100
Windsor	(13)	8	(87)	57	(54)	35	(154)[3]	100
Toronto	(27)	10	(130)	49	(108)	41	(265)	100

[1] 1 Missing Observation

[2] 1 Missing Observation

[3] 1 Missing Observation

TABLE 2: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY AGE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

AGE	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
62-74	(38)	63	(333)	70	(131)	43
75-84	(17)	28	(125)	26	(133)	43
85+	(5)	9	(15)	4	(43)	14
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(473)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 69.91 $P < .01$

*6 Missing Observations

TABLE 3: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY SEX
(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Men	(19)	32	(274)	58	(58)	19
Women	(41)	68	(195)	42	(247)	81
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(469)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 120.62 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 3a: MARITAL STATUS OF MEN AND WOMEN BY AGE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MARITAL STATUS

MEN

	SINGLE (N)	SINGLE %	MARRIED (N)	MARRIED %	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED (N)	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED %
AGE						
62-74	(12)	63	(180)	66	(26)	45
75-84	(7)	37	(82)	30	(22)	38
85+	(0)	0	(12)	4	(10)	17
TOTAL*	(19)	100	(274)	100	(58)	100

*2 Missing Observations

WOMEN

	SINGLE (N)	SINGLE %	MARRIED (N)	MARRIED %	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED (N)	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED %
AGE						
62-74	(26)	64	(148)	77	(104)	42
75-84	(10)	24	(42)	22	(110)	43
85+	(5)	12	(5)	1	(32)	5
TOTAL*	(41)	100	(195)	100	(246)	100

Chi Square = 72.33 P < .01

*2 Missing Observations

TABLE 4: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY MONTHLY INCOME (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MONTHLY INCOME	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
$000-$599	(22)	39	(38)	8	(155)	56
$600-$799	(9)	16	(58)	13	(48)	17
$800-$900	(8)	14	(113)	25	(27)	10
$1000+	(17)	31	(241)	54	(49)	17
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(450)	100	(279)	100

Chi Square = 225.60 P <.05

*61 Missing Observations

TABLE 5: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING OWNERSHIP (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING OWNERSHIP	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Own	(23)	39	(398)	84	(147)	48
Rent	(36)	61	(77)	16	(161)	52
TOTAL*	(59)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 140.53 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 6: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY HOUSING TYPE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

HOUSING TYPE	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
House	(27)	50	(407)	87	(169)	55
Apartment	(27)	50	(63)	13	(137)	45
TOTAL*	(54)	100	(470)	100	(306)	100

Chi Square = 106.69 $P < .01$

*16 Missing Observations

TABLE 7: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY LIVED ALONE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Lives Alone	(36)	60	(4)	1	(213)	69
Lives With Others	(24)	40	(471)	99	(95)	31
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 8: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF FAMILY CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(5)	8	(1)	1	(6)	2
1-6	(36)	61	(107)	22	(115)	37
7-12	(15)	25	(170)	35	(97)	32
13+	(5)	8	(197)	42	(90)	29
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 9: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THE RESPONDENTS HAD CHILDREN (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Have Children	(57)	95	(48)	10	(45)	15
Has Children	(3)	5	(427)	90	(263)	85
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 10: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(29)	53	(380)	81	(242)	81
1-3 Times Per Month	(10)	18	(66)	14	(29)	10
Less Than Once Per Month	(16)	29	(24)	5	(28)	9
TOTAL*	(55)	100	(470)	100	(299)	100

Chi Square = 44.25 $P < .01$

*22 Missing Observations

TABLE 11: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY VISITED FAMILY MEMBERS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(20)	36	(327)	69	(198)	66
Less Than Once Per Month	(36)	64	(145)	31	(102)	34
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(472)	100	(300)	100

Chi Square = 25.07 $P < .01$

*18 Missing Observations

TABLE 12: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY WITH WHICH THEY WERE VISITED BY FAMILY (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF VISITS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Month	(26)	46	(364)	77	(232)	77
Less Than Once Per Month	(30)	54	(109)	23	(68)	23
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(473)	100	(300)	100

Chi Square = 26.24 $P < .01$

*17 Missing Observations

TABLE 13: MARITIAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS WITH FRIENDS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

FREQUENCY OF PHONE CONTACTS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
At Least Once Per Week	(43)	72	(296)	63	(224)	73
1-3 Times Per Month	(10)	17	(89)	19	(38)	13
Less Than Once Per Month	(7)	11	(83)	18	(43)	14
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(468)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 10.10 $P < .05$

*13 Missing Observations

TABLE 14: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY THE NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF LEISURE ACTIVITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
1-10	(28)	47	(108)	23	(95)	31
11-12	(6)	10	(101)	21	(71)	23
13-14	(10)	17	(117)	25	(71)	23
15+	(16)	26	(149)	31	(71)	23
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 23.43 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 15: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN SELECTED LEISURE ACTIVITIES BY MARITAL STATUS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ACTIVITY	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N) N=60	%	(N) N=475	%	(N) N=308	%
Gardening	(24)	41	(332)	70	(122)	40
Going To Sports Events	(11)	19	(140)	30	(54)	18
Phoning Friends	(54)	92	(357)	76	(273)	89
Phoning Family	(44)	79	(438)	93	(272)	90
Visiting Friends	(39)	71	(434)	92	(263)	86
Receiving Visits From Family	(41)	73	(455)	96	(276)	91
Participating In Sports	(9)	16	(103)	22	(42)	14
Travelling	(30)	52	(322)	68	(177)	58
Taking Drives	(36)	62	(362)	77	(230)	75
Entertaining	(26)	45	(311)	66	(172)	56

[1]Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 16: BARRIERS IDENTIFIED TO PARTICIPATION BY MARITAL STATUS (PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS		
	SINGLE	MARRIED	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
Respondents' Health Problems	18%	21%	29%
Respondents Busy	15%	18%	9%
Too Expensive	12%	16%	11%
Distance	8%	7%	7%
No Companions	9%	5%	10%
No Transportation	10%	3%	7%
Others Busy	2%	5%	5%
Lazy	3%	5%	3%
Family Has Health Problems	4%	6%	1%
No Opportunities Available	4%	3%	4%
Not Sure How To Go About It	1%	2%	3%
Feeling Of Being Too Old	1%	1%	2%
Bad Weather	2%	1%	1%
Fearful	1%	1%	1%
Other	10%	6%	7%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 17: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED HEALTH AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Health	(33)	55	(265)	56	(143)	46
Did Cite Health	(27)	45	(210)	44	(165)	54
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 6.75 $P < .05$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 18: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED "BEING TOO BUSY" AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite "Being Too Busy"	(44)	73	(291)	61	(234)	76
Did Cite "Being Too Busy"	(16)	27	(184)	39	(74)	24
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 19.43 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 19: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED EXPENSE AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Expense	(40)	67	(253)	53	(210)	68
Did Cite Expense	(20)	33	(222)	47	(98)	32
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 18.59 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 20: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED THE ABSENCE OF TRANSPORTATION AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Transportation	(43)	72	(415)	87	(244)	79
Did Cite Transportation	(17)	28	(60)	13	(64)	21
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 15.15 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 21: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY REPORTED FAMILY HEALTH PROBLEMS AS A BARRIER (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Cite Family Health Problems	(55)	92	(426)	90	(297)	96
Did Cite Family Health Problems	(5)	8	(49)	10	(11)	4
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 12.86 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 22: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY COMPARISON OF HEALTH WITH FIVE YEARS PREVIOUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

COMPARISON OF HEALTH	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Better	(6)	10	(51)	11	(25)	8
About The Same	(40)	67	(272)	57	(160)	52
Worse	(14)	23	(152)	32	(123)	40
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 9.27 P = 05

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 23: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY AN EVALUATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

EXTENT TO WHICH HEALTH IMPAIRS ACTIVITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Not At All	(37)	62	(180)	38	(113)	37
A Little	(13)	22	(202)	42	(125)	41
A Great Deal	(10)	16	(93)	20	(69)	22
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 15.35 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 24: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF HEALTH CONDITIONS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(7)	12	(42)	9	(14)	5
1-2	(26)	43	(141)	30	(80)	26
3-4	(12)	20	(147)	31	(92)	30
5+	(15)	25	(145)	30	(122)	39
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 25.68 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 25: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF INTERFERING HEALTH CONDITIONS REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF INTERFERING CONDITIONS	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(28)	47	(142)	30	(79)	26
1	(11)	18	(96)	20	(54)	18
2-3	(13)	22	(127)	27	(74)	24
4+	(8)	13	(110)	23	(101)	32
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 20.06 P <.01

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 26: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY NUMBER OF DISABILITIES REPORTED (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF DISABILITIES	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
None	(44)	73	(351)	74	(188)	61
1-2	(11)	18	(87)	18	(79)	26
3+	(5)	9	(37)	8	(41)	13
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 15.56 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 27: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS[1] WHO REPORTED DISABILITIES BY TYPE OF DISABILITY AND BY MARITAL STATUS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

ADL	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N) N=60	%	(N) N=475	%	(N) N=308	%
Using The Telephone	(5)	8	(29)	6	(24)	8
Shopping[2]	(7)	12	(52)	11	(69)	22
Preparing Meals	(4)	7	(36)	8	(222)	7
Doing Housework	(10)	17	(93)	20	(83)	27
Handling Money	(3)	5	(25)	4	(27)	9
Dressing	(0)	0	(9)	2	(4)	1
Taking Care Of One's Own Appearance	(0)	0	(9)	2	(5)	2
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(2)	3	(7)	2	(4)	1
Bathing	(4)	7	(22)	5	(44)	14

1 Each precentage is calculated according to the relevant N.

2 Chi Square = 21.55 $P < .01$

TABLE 28: NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(37)	62	(275)	58	(119)	39
1	(11)	18	(92)	19	(50)	16
2-4	(9)	15	(69)	15	(89)	29
5+	(3)	5	(39)	8	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 48.51 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 29: NUMBER AND PERCENGAGE[1] OF RESPONDENTS WHO RECEIVED ASSISTANCE WITH DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES BY TYPE OF ASSISTANCE AND BY MARITAL STATUS

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N) N=60	%	(N) N=475	%	(N) N=308	%
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework[2]	(5)	9	(41)	9	(51)	17
Heavy Housework[3]	(12)	21	(90)	19	(110)	36
Making A Cup Of Tea	(0)	0	(13)	3	(7)	2
Meal Preparation	(1)	2	(20)	4	(19)	6
Laundry[4]	(5)	9	(30)	6	(48)	16
House Repairs[5]	(5)	10	(50)	11	(55)	21
Climbing Stairs	(0)	0	(11)	2	(12)	4
Mobility At Home	(0)	0	(4)	1	(5)	2
Using The Telephone	(0)	0	(11)	2	(9)	3
Mending	(2)	8	(12)	3	(12)	4
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yark Work[6]	(12)	26	(123)	28	(99)	40
Shopping[7]	(7)	12	(43)	9	(81)	26
Going Out In Good Weather	(0)	0	(9)	2	(12)	4
Going Out In Bad Weather	(1)	2	(23)	5	(34)	11
Banking	(2)	3	(24)	5	(37)	12
Paying Bills	(2)	3	(23)	5	(28)	9
Financial Assistance	(0)	0	(9)	2	(11)	4
PERSONAL						
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(0)	0	(8)	2	(2)	1
Bathing	(1)	2	(10)	2	(11)	4
Dressing	(0)	0	(8)	2	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(4)	7	(35)	7	(36)	12
Taking Medication	(1)	2	(11)	2	(5)	2

1 Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

2 Chi Square = 12.08 $P < .01$

3 Chi Square = 28.68 $P < .01$

4 Chi Square = 18.29 $P < .01$

5 Chi Square = 13.84 $P < .01$

6 Chi Square = 11.82 $P < .01$

7 Chi Square = 43.14 $P < .01$

TABLE 30: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	MARITAL STATUS		
	SINGLE	MARRIED	PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
Daughter		10%	24%
Son		12%	12%
Other Family Member	22%	13%	28%
Spouse		37%	
Neighbour/Friend	32%	6%	11%
Community Agency	2%	2%	2%
Paid Help	42%	20%	22%
Other	2%		1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 31: PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES TO RESPONDENTS BY MARITAL STATUS AND SEX

ASSISTANCE PROVIDER	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
Daughter			6%	14%	33%	24%
Son			15%	9%	5%	11%
Other Family Member	14%	24%	14%	13%	15%	29%
Spouse			38%	36%		
Neighbour/ Friend	64%	22%	5%	6%	13%	11%
Community Agency		2%	3%	1%	4%	3%
Paid Help	22%	48%	18%	21%	28%	22%
Other		4%	1%		2%	
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

TABLE 32: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY USE OF FIVE COMMUNITY AGENCIES[1] (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Did Not Use Any Of The Agencies	(55)	92	(447)	94	(259)	84
Used One Or More Of The Agencies	(5)	8	(28)	6	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 21.48 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

[1]VON, Red Cross Homemakers, Home Care, Meals on Wheels, and Friendly Visitors.

TABLE 33: TYPE OF REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE BY MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS

(NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)[1]

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
	N=60		N=475		N=308	
ACTIVITIES IN THE HOME						
Light Housework	(2)	3	(21)	4	(29)	9
Heavy Housework	(7)	12	(48)	10	(41)	13
Making A Cup Of Tea	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Meal Preparation	(2)	3	(6)	1	(13)	4
Laundry	(2)	3	(10)	2	(2)	1
House Repairs	(2)	4	(38)	8	(20)	7
Climbing Stairs	(0)	0	(6)	1	(4)	1
Mobility At Home	(0)	0	(1)	1	(1)	1
Using The Telephone	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Mending	(2)	3	(2)	1	(4)	1
ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE HOME						
Yard Work	(3)	6	(46)	10	(21)	8
Shopping	(2)	3	(9)	2	(16)	5
Going Out In Good Weather	(0)	0	(0)	0	(3)	1
Going Out In Bad Weather	(4)	7	(5)	1	(10)	3
Banking	(1)	3	(4)	1	(4)	1
Paying Bills	(0)	0	(2)	1	(3)	1
Financial Assistance	(1)	2	(6)	1	(0)	0
PERSONAL						
Getting In And Out Of Bed	(1)	2	(0)	0	(2)	1
Bathing	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	1
Dressing	(1)	2	(0)	0	(1)	1
Cutting Toenails	(3)	5	(12)	3	(25)	8
Taking Medication	(0)	0	(1)	1	(0)	0

[1] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 34: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE [7] OF RESPONDENTS WHO EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VARIOUS HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS BY MARITAL STATUS

HOUSING ARRANGEMENT	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N) N=60	%	(N) N=475	%	(N) N=308	%
Moving In With Family[1]	(9)	18	(66)	15	(59)	21
Moving In With Friends[2]	(6)	13	(7)	2	(11)	4
Staying Home With Community Services To Assist[3]	(32)	63	(271)	62	(166)	60
Staying Home With Family/Friends To Assist[4]	(23)	43	(242)	54	(158)	55
Supportive Housing Arrangement[6]	(43)	77	(318)	71	(186)	64

[1] 81 Missing Observations
[2] 51 Missing Observations, Chi Square = 21.37 $P < .01$
[3] 81 Missing Observations
[4] 57 Missing Observations
[5] 47 Missing Observations
[6] Chi Square = 7.37 $P < .05$
[7] Each percentage has been calculated according to the relevant N.

TABLE 35: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR SHOPPING BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(24)	43	(56)	12	(85)	29
Drive Self	(10)	18	(261)	57	(74)	26
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(89)	19	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(5)	9	(24)	5	(71)	25
Driven By Friends	(2)	4	(4)	1	(12)	4
Taxi	(3)	5	(4)	1	(9)	3
Public Transportation	(12)	21	(18)	4	(36)	12
Community Agency	(0)	0	(1)	1	(3)	1
TOTAL*	(56)	100	(457)	100	(290)	100

*43 Missing Observations

TABLE 36: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(13)	22	(41)	9	(56)	19
Drive Self	(9)	16	(252)	55	(67)	23
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(86)	19	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(4)	7	(24)	5	(84)	28
Driven By Friends	(6)	10	(5)	1	(9)	3
Taxi	(8)	14	(10)	2	(18)	6
Public Transportation	(17)	30	(38)	8	(56)	19
Community Agency	(1)	1	(4)	1	(8)	2
TOTAL*	(58)	100	(460)	100	(298)	100

*30 Missing Observations

TABLE 37: FIRST MODE OF TRANSPORTATION USED BY THE RESPONDENTS FOR SOCIAL OCCASIONS BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Walk	(10)	21	(33)	8	(43)	17
Drive Self	(9)	19	(252)	60	(64)	26
Driven By Spouse	(0)	0	(81)	20	(0)	0
Driven By Relatives	(4)	9	(18)	4	(58)	23
Driven By Friends	(9)	19	(8)	2	(35)	14
Taxi	(3)	6	(3)	1	(5)	2
Public Transportation	(12)	26	(21)	5	(42)	17
Community Agency	(0)	0	(0)	0	(2)	1
TOTAL*	(47)	100	(416)	100	(249)	100

*134 Missing Observations

TABLE 38: NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS BY MARITAL STATUS

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(8)	14	(34)	7	(36)	12
No Transportation Problems Reported	(51)	86	(439)	93	(269)	88
TOTAL*	(59)	100	(473)	100	(305)	100

Chi Square = 6.02 $P < .05$

*9 Missing Observations

TABLE 39: REPORTS OF TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS RELATED TO SOCIAL OCCASIONS AMONG RESPONDENTS BY THEIR MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Transportation Problems Reported	(5)	8	(13)	3	(17)	7
No Transportation Problems Reported	(46)	92	(422)	97	(243)	93
TOTAL*	(51)	100	(435)	100	(260)	100

Chi Square = 6.07 P <.05

*100 Missing Observatons. The large number of missing observations reflects the number of respondents who indicated that they did not attend social occasions.

TABLE 40: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY USED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Used Public Transportation	(44)	73	(197)	42	(184)	60
Does Not Use Public Transportation	(16)	27	(277)	58	(124)	40
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(474)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 38.18 $P < .01$

*4 Missing Observations

TABLE 41: MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS BY WHETHER THEY USED TAXIS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
Used Taxis	(32)	53	(111)	23	(129)	42
Does Not Use Taxis	(28)	47	(364)	77	(179)	58
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(308)	100

Chi Square = 42.42 $P < .01$

*3 Missing Observations

TABLE 28: NUMBER OF DAY TO DAY ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED BY MARITAL STATUS (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE)

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WITH WHICH ASSISTANCE WAS RECEIVED	MARITAL STATUS					
	SINGLE		MARRIED		PREVIOUSLY MARRIED	
	(N)	%	(N)	%	(N)	%
0	(37)	62	(275)	58	(119)	39
1	(11)	18	(92)	19	(50)	16
2-4	(7)	12	(69)	15	(89)	29
5+	(5)	8	(39)	8	(49)	16
TOTAL*	(60)	100	(475)	100	(307)	100

Chi Square = 48.51 P <.01

*4 Missing Observations

APPENDIX

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The data which was gathered in the USCO survey provides base line information on the living situation of senior citizens who are not living in institutions in the province of Ontario. The volume and comprehensiveness of the data demanded separate analysis to allow for clear and complete information regarding the association between variables. A series of papers resulted with each paper having a particular emphasis.

Within the series, seven papers are issue oriented:

1. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Health Status and Use of the Health Care System.
2. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Social Contacts, Providers of Assistance and Requests for Additional Assistance.
3. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation as Volunteers and Their Interest in Volunteerism.
4. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Use of Transportation.
5. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Potential and Actual Use of Community Services.
6. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Current Housing Situation and Their Interest in Various Housing Options.
7. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Their Participation in Leisure Activities and The Barriers to Their Participation.

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8. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experience of Those Who are Childless.
9. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Age Differences With Particular Focus on Persons Aged 85+.
10. Elderly Residents in Ontario: The Experiences of Those Who Are Frail.
11. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Marital Differences With Particular Focus on Those Who Are Single.

12. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Income Group Differences.

13. Elderly Residents in Ontario: Rural-Urban Differences.

The series also includes:

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15. Elderly Residents in Ontario: An Overview: a paper summarizing the findings and content of the other fourteen papers in the series.

The intention is that each of the fifteen papers in the series can be studied on its own but, also that the complete series will offer continuity and comprehensive information in an accessible form.

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APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

Chi Square: a test of statistical significance which is used to determine whether variables are independent or related and to also determine the extent to which the relationship is systematic and is not just occuring by chance.

Cleaning: a method by which the data is systematically examined to identify and eliminate inappropriate codes and wild punches (key punching errors).

Coding: a method of transforming information from the interview schedule into a numerical scheme for purposes of data analysis. The codes are subsequently key punched onto a computer card and fed into the computer for analysis.

Community Agency/ Service: all health, social, legal and financial services available in a community and organized under public or voluntary auspices. The services may operate with or without paid staff, and may or may not charge the user for services rendered.

Cross Tabulations: a joint frequency distribution of cases according to two or more classificatory variables. The cross tabulations allow for statistical analysis using a test of significance such as the chi-square test.

Data: the information gathered in the study. In this project it consists of information gathered from the 846 interviews.

Dependent Variable: the outcome or determined condition in a relationship between two or more variables.

Disability: the requirement for assistance or the inability to carry out activities related to day to day living (i.e., housework, meal preparation.)

Frail: reports of three or more disabilities was the basis for defining a person as frail.

Frequencies: descriptive statistics used to organize data. The information is divided into variable categories or intervals and the number of cases in each category is known as the 'frequency' for that variable. The relative frequency is calculated by computing the percentage represented by the number of cases in each variable category.

Friendly Visiting: a community service wherein the individual receives personal visits from another person. This service may be organized under public or voluntary auspices and its purpose is to provide seniors with friendly contact.

G.I.S.: Guaranteed Income Supplement - a federal government supplement given to seniors to ensure that their income is at a specified level.

GAINS-A: Ontario provincial income supplement for senior citizens.

Health Care System: family physicians, specialists, hospitalizations, nursing home or rehabilitation centres.

Home Care: a program of visiting health care services to people in their own homes who meet eligibility criteria as established by the Ontario Ministry of Health.

Independent Variables: the determining condition in a relationship of two or more variables.

Institutional Settings: nursing homes, homes for the aged, chronic care units in general hospitals or chronic care hospitals, special care facilities and mental health facilities.

Instrument: the tool used to gather data; in this case the tool was an interview schedule.

Interfering Health Conditions: health conditions identified by a physician which the respondents consider to interfere with their day to day activities.

Interview Schedule: the questionnaire used by the interviewer to ask questions and record information.

Leisure Activity: an activity which a person participates in by choice and of their own volition; includes recreational activities, hobbies, volunteer work, etc.

Mean ($\bar{X}$): the sum of all the observations divided by the number of observations.

Missing Observations: instances in which the information is not available for a particular question.

Multiple Response: a procedure done on the computer with the use of SPSS whereby a analysis can be done of questions to which the respondents might legitimately make more than one reply.

OARS ADL Scale: specific questions developed for OARS (Older American Resources and Service Program of the Duke University Centre for the Study of Aging and Human Development). The ADL Scale measures the ability of respondents to carry out the activities of daily living (ADLS), (i.e., use of the telephone and meal preparation).

Old Age Security Data Base: a complete listing of all persons aged 62+ who receive the Old Age Security Pension.

Paid Help: distinguished from a community service in that it is assistance received which is not organized under public auspices as a service. It is all other assistance for which a fee is paid.

Personal Care Activities: activities such as bathing, dressing and getting in and out of bed.

Pretest: the testing of a research instrument such as a questionnaire or interview schedule prior to actually administering it for a study. The purpose of a pretest is to see how the instrument actually works in the field. The extent to which the questions are understood and the ease with which the instrument is administered is examined.

Previously Married: individuals who were married but are not presently married due to being widowed, divorced or separated.

Random Sample: a process for sample selection in which every element in the population is given an equal chance of being picked.

Represenativeness: the degree to which the study sample represents the population at large. Specific characteristics such as sex and age can be compared to determine the representativeness.

S.D.: a statistic which measures the scatter of a set of data and indicates the extent to which the responses vary around the mean.

SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences is a system of computer programs for the purpose of data analysis.

Sample: part of the population at large, selected for study.

Sample Frame: the base from which a sample is drawn, i.e., list of names.

Significant Differences: determined through a statistical procedure to establish that the relationship between variables did not occur by chance.

Single: persons who have never been married or are not living common-law.

Social Contacts: visits with friends and family or in person.

Socio-Economic: characteristics frequently used to measure social status such as educational level or income.

Stratified Sample: a sample procedure whereby all individuals are divided into groups or categories (in the case of this study it was communities) and then an independent sample is selected within each group or stratum.)

Supportive Housing Arrangements: a housing arrangement in which some supportive services are available, such as meals, house cleaning.

Tau: Kendal's Tau: a statistic used to measure the association among ordinal data. It summarizes the relationship between variables.

Variable: refers to a particular characteristic of the sample being considered.

Volunteer: a person who gives his/her time to a particular cause or organization without pay.

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